

REMARKS

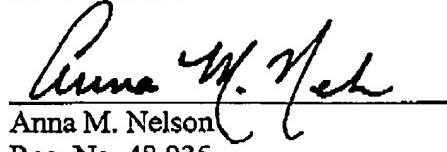
Applicants thank the Examiner for the notification of allowance and noted that claims 97 and 140 were inadvertently duplicates of claims 96 and 139 respectively. The amendments to claims 96 and 139 that were made herein correct this error so that claims 97 and 140 refer to elderly subjects and claims 96 and 139 refer to young subjects. Claim 104 was amended in order to remedy the inclusion of the "compact membrane" which was previously objected to by the Examiner. The other occurrences of this phrase were previously changed to "collagen membrane" and this claim was amended similarly. Claim 128 was amended to add a dependency to claim 107, as claim 129 already contains.

Based on the above, Applicants respectfully submit that these claim amendments do not offer any substantive changes to the claims and merely correct typographical errors. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request entry thereof and notification of that respect.

The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' representative at the number below, with any questions regarding the above.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT& GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
612/332-5300

Date: May 12, 2004

Anna M. Nelson
Reg. No. 48,935
AMN